

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS GENEVA 5251

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID UNDP

SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: AGENDA ITEM 10(D) -

ACTION BY BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

REF: GENEVA AIRGRAM A-157

1. BUDGETARY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE SPEND CONSIDERABLE
TIME DISCUSSING AGENDA ITEM 10(D) - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
FOR 1978. IN WIDE-RANGING DECISION, COMMITTEE:

--APPROVED APPROPRIATIONS OF \$85,550,600 TO FINANCE
1978 PROGRAMME BUDGET;

--APPROVED A REDUCED AMOUNT OF \$95,000 TO SUPPORT THE
NEW COORDINATING GROUP FOR INTER-AGENCY PROCUREMENT;

--APPROVED UNDP'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE
CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT
THROUGH 1978;

--APPROVED THE FINANCING OF 36 SIDFA POSTS, AND REQUESTED
THAT THEY BE ALLOCATED IN PARTICULAR TO QUOTE LEAST
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN ACUTE NEED OF
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVICE; END QUOTE

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--REQUESTED ECOSOC TO RECOMMEND TO THE UNGA THAT
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT
FUND BE MET FROM THE FUND'S RESOURCES;

--REQUESTED THE ADMINISTRATOR TO INCREASE THE PRIORITY
GIVEN TO EVALUATION AND TO SHOW IT AS A SEPARATE ACTIVITY

IN FUTURE BUDGETS; AND

--REQUESTED A REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A TWO-YEAR BUDGET CYCLE FOR UNDP ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM SUPPORT COSTS.

2. DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE WAS A WIDE-RANGING AS THE DRAFT DECISION ADOPTED. MOST MEMBERS AGREED WITH USDEL (REF AIRGRAM) THAT BUDGET WAS TOO LARGE TO ANALYZE IN GROSS, AND THAT GC WAS THEREFORE LEFT TO WEED OUT OBVIOUS PROBLEMS. YET MEMBERS ALSO AGREED WITH USDEL THAT CONTINUED VIGILANCE OVER ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT COSTS WAS NECESSARY SO AS TO STEM THE TIDE OF THESE EVER-BURGEONING DRAINS ON THE PROGRAMME'S RESOURCES.

3. COMMITTEE ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED ACABQ COMMENTS REGARDING NEW TERMINOLOGY AND LTENESS OF THE BUDGET PRESENTATION, AS WELL AS ITS SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS RELATING TO TRAVEL COSTS AND PRINTING CONTRACTING COSTS. THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR (HEPPLING) RESPONDED TO THESE BY SAYING THAT NEXT BUDGET PRESENTATION WOULD REFLECT THESE CRITICISMS; AND THAT EVERY EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO REDUCE EXTRAORDINARY TRAVEL AND OTHER COSTS.SORENSEN

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